(b) the area of additional agricultural land included in the agricultural land of the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the total agricultural land available in the country after Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the target in terms of area for providing additional agricultural land during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Agricultural land consists of five categories of lands, namely Land Under Miscellaneous Tree Crops and Groves, Culturable Waste Land, Fallow Lands Other Than Current Fallow, Current Fallow Land and Net Area Sown. As per available estimates, area under agricultural land was 184.875 million ha. in the year 1992-93 (beginning of Eighth Five Year Plan) and the same was 183.592 million ha. in the 1997-98 (beginning of Ninth Five Year Plan).

For management and development of rainfed/degraded lands, Government of India are implementing various programmes namely (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA),(v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme, (vii) Integrated Waste-Land Development Programme (IWDP) etc. to bring these lands to better agricultural uses.

(d) The Working Group on Watershed Development, Rainfed Farming and Natural Resources Management for Tenth Five Year Plan, constituted by Planning Commission, has suggested a perspective plan for development of 15.00 million ha. of rainfed/degraded lands during Tenth Five Year Plan through Watershed Development Programmes.

Central Stock Scheme by NFL

3191. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central Stock Scheme extended by the National Fertilizers Ltd. to its dealers; and

(b) the rate of Commission provided to various dealers for each ton under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH): (a) National Fertilizers Ltd. has introduced Central Stock Scheme (CSS) *w.e.f.* 01.04.1999. Under the Scheme, dealers are eligible for commitment rebate provided they lift the monthly/seasonally committed quantities. The CSS dealers are required to lift every month fixed percentage of the total committed quantity.

(b) Dealers get a distribution margin @ Rs. 180 per MT; besides, cash discount in lieu of credit period. The CSS dealers are also allowed commitment rebate depending upon the quantity lifted during the season, annually and the security deposit made with the company.

Operationalisation of DPCO

3192. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has refused to permit the Central Government to operationalise the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) issued under the pharmaceutical policy 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Court has also directed Government to take some corrective steps in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the follow-up action taken thereto so that the D.P.C.O. could be put into effect immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government announced the 'Pharmaceutical Policy 2002' in February, 2002. However, a public interest litigation filed in the High Court of Karnataka at Bangalore resulted in an Order dated 12.11.02 which stopped the Government from implementing the price control regime of the Pharmaceutical Policy 2002 This Department filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Suprem Court of India against the Order of the Karnataka High Court, which h: